

SUBSTANCE ABUSE TREATMENT FACT SHEET

Massachusetts Department of Public Health, Bureau of Substance Abuse Services

This fact sheet contains information about the impact of alcohol and other drug use in the Worcester and Norfolk Senatorial District. Admission data were reported to the Bureau of Substance Abuse Services (BSAS) Substance Abuse Management Information System in FY 2002.

Residents of Worcester and Norfolk Senatorial District

Characteristics of Admissions

In FY 2002, there were 124,539 admissions to licensed substance abuse treatment services in all of Massachusetts; 2% (2,241) of these admissions reside in the Worcester and Norfolk Senatorial District. 2.7% (60) of admissions from the Worcester and Norfolk Senatorial District were under 17 years of age. **Please note that these statistics represent only individual admissions, and represent a figure lower than the actual number of constituents in need of treatment services.** In FY 2002, admissions to all residential and outpatient substance abuse treatment services from Worcester and Norfolk Senatorial District reported the following characteristics:

- 73% were male and 27% were female.
- 62% were between the ages of 21-39.
- 81% were white non-Latino, 2% were black non-Latino, 14% were Latino and 3% were other racial categories.
- 64% were never married, 17% were married, and 20% reported not to be married now.
- 32% had less than high school education, 50% completed high school, and 19% had more than high school education.
- 39% were employed.
- 5% were homeless.
- 28% had prior mental health treatment.

Primary Substance of Use

At admission clients also identify a “primary drug” of use that is the substance for which the client is seeking treatment. Table 1 compares the proportional distribution of primary drugs in Massachusetts with that for the Worcester and Norfolk Senatorial District.

Table 1					
Primary Drug by District and State FY 2002					
	Alcohol	Heroin	Marijuana	Cocaine	Crack
District	45%	38%	9%	3%	2%
State	45%	37%	6%	4%	3%

Substances Used in Past Year

Upon entering treatment, each client is asked to report ALL substances used in the past year (12 months) prior to admission. Admissions frequently report using more than one substance within the year. The use of more than one psychoactive substance, such as alcohol and marijuana, is referred to as ‘polydrug’ or ‘polysubstance’ use.

Table 2 shows ALL substances which clients reported using in the year prior to admission, including the prevalence of injection drug users (IDU's), individuals who use a needle to ingest cocaine, crack, heroin or another drug to get high.

Table 2 Annual Admissions by Substance Use: FY 1995 – FY 2002							
Worcester and Norfolk Senatorial District							
	Total	Alcohol	Marijuana	Cocaine	Crack	Heroin	IDU
FY '95	1,746	1,465	544	382	166	372	216
FY '96	1,667	1,370	568	397	194	410	266
FY '97	1,795	1,477	613	424	216	455	374
FY '98	1,910	1,563	728	454	227	558	425
FY '99	2,092	1,682	698	498	264	595	467
FY '00	2,151	1,684	766	508	311	793	617
FY '01	2,284	1,606	732	494	231	925	742
FY '02	2,241	1,518	662	468	258	913	682

Heroin and Injection Drug Use

Figure 1 below shows the proportional increases in all admissions in the Worcester and Norfolk Senatorial District and the proportional increase in admissions reporting heroin and injection drug use, a factor driving increases in HIV.

